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MAGAZINE

CAUGHT BY
A MAD GOD
WILL VAMPI
ESCAPE HIS
SEDUCTIVE
TRAP?

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#1115
DEC 1979

VAMPIRELLA

...WILL
SHE
EVEN
WANT
TO?

#83



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VAMPIRELLA

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DECEMBER 1979

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Vampi's Scarlet Letters

WILL THE REAL VAMPI PLEASE STAND UP!

I'm not sure that the fan page is worth wasting ink on, at least not the way it stands now. I think you misjudge the intelligence of the vast majority of your readers. Put yourself in the place of your readers, and I don't mean the adolescent ones. I don't feel they constitute enough sales to turn VAMPI into a juvenile publication. I what would you like to see in a fan page if you were personally shelling out your money for the magazine. You already have the only adult fan page in existence in Joe Bonaccelli's column.

You might use the fan page to answer questions from your readers, or give an insight into the behind-the-scenes work. Those of us who've never relinquished our fascination for this form would be interested.

JOHN ESKINS
La Mirada, Cal.

Maybe a healthy mixture of cover art and cover photography with Barbara Leigh would appease both factions of the VAMPI Cover Controversy, but under the circumstances, the only way that I can see VAMPI making her bid for movie immortality is if Barbara Leigh's beautiful visage graces every cover, until her visit appeal can no longer be denied by anyone.

JEFFREY LOWMEYER
Scranton, Pa.

From Marace to Otilia...
From Jones to DuBay...
Vampirella #80 was definitely O.K.

A double-dose of Pablo Marace:
A masterpiece? He came close.

John Donnie was lots of fun...
But Allen Amazon was the beautiful one.

Violets are red, Roses are blue
I'd keep Marace on VAMPI if I were you.

I love VAMPI
But for #80, I wasn't ready.

I am no Brian Cadon
But I know what I'm sayin'
MIKE BARTRAM
Auburn, Wash.

Okay, you tell me! Who the hell is Pablo Marace? And where are the Gonzalez twins Jose and Mayo? I know Jose Gonzalez and Gonzalo Mayo aren't really twins! My favorite people didn't look themselves. Marace draws superb curves, but the faces are all wrong. He's VAMPIRELLA. Without that she would be just another sexy body.

Don't get me wrong, I liked the story, it's just that I didn't think the art fit. In fact the stories were all great. Four surprise endings and the funniest space opera I've read in a long time.

Oh heavenly bliss knowing that there are two VAMPI stories forth coming.

Boy this is shaping up to be quite a summer!

REX JOYNER
Falls Church, Va.

VAMPIRELLA #80 was a super issue, and the cover by Esteban Merado was fantastic!

My two favorite stories in the issue were both drawn by Pablo Marace. I love the man's art! The VAMPIRELLA splash page scared me! I thought she had returned to Hollywood. Please keep her out of that town. Marace drew VAMPI the way she should be drawn, and Gonzalo Mayo's art doesn't come close. Bill DuBay's scripting was terrific and I can't wait to see the outcome!

The second best story was "John Donnie and the Asteroid Pirates." The story was really different, and Marace's graphics was great.

MIKE ROCHELEAU
Green Bay, Wis.

Now, about a specific duo of artists and writers. Jose Gonzalez and Pablo Marace are two of the best artists for your magazine. Speaking of Pablo Marace, did Marvel Comics hire him once? I saw a Marvel "Two-In-One" mag with his name on it!

And the writers, oh boy! Bill DuBay is simply fantastically GREAT! And so is Archie Goodwin!

NAPOLEON ZYKOWSKI
Peterson, N.J.

Ah, one serial wife's not enough! Now, with VAMPIRELLA #80, we've got two. This isn't a complaint, though. "Allen Amazon" promises to be every bit as interesting as the Dragon Queen storyline. Demons and stereotypes are certainly a strange combination, and I'm looking forward to seeing how Bill DuBay resolves it all in just one more episode.

The artwork of Pablo Marace was everything one could want. It's true that his N-growth looks as though he escaped from a superhero comic. (What does a demon need muscles for anyway?) But Sandra is a feast for the eyes, and VAMPI has an exotic beauty different from either the Gonzalez Mayo or Jose Gonzalez versions.

As for the other stories in the issue, Cary Bangs did a good job on both "Like Father, Like Son" and "The Eternal Triangle" (poor title, that). And I didn't even have to look to know that Bruce Jones was behind "Transference." ... I can spot a lot of his tales a mile away.

The final story, Chris Adames ("Pablo Marace" and "The Asteroid Pirates") could, with a little thought, be the beginning of something. A good space opera series is something currently lacking here, but this tale might be the kernel of such a venture. No, I don't mean John Donnie, forget that nerd! You have a gold mine in Maradona Downs and the courageous crew of the good ship Grape Cluster. Let's have more Mandyl!

I don't particularly like covers that have nothing to do with the contents, and Esteban Merado's perching on this issue is no exception. But it is intriguing.

A spacecap blast off from an alien landscape, and its departure is not to the liking of the spear-bearing fox in the foreground. (Mother tried to tell her about Earthmen, but ...) What is the solution to our world's predicament? Will she follow the old across the Galaxy in search of blood or marriage? Or will she take him to court? Also, we'll never know.

BRIAN CADON
Cincinnati, Oh.

For what seems to be ages, the argument has gone on as to who is the best Vampi artist, Jose Gonzalez or Gonzalo Mayo? Well, I'd like to throw the situation into further disarray by saying that I think Pablo Marace should be given serious consideration. His work in #81, where it appeared alongside that of the other two, was impressive.

While Gonzalez and Mayo draw fine figures (although sometimes some disproportion does creep in) Marace's illustrations are much more fluid, giving a sense of action. His main problem at present is that sometimes he misses the essence of the main character, but this is largely due to the fact that these essences have been constructed by Gonzalez and Mayo. If he works long enough as the strip this problem should disappear since either he will come closer to the traditional portrayal or the readers will become used to his version for a bit of both.

Of the two new stories I found "VAMPIRELLA and the Alien Amazon" to be the more enjoyable. It had the requisite amount of action as well as some further background on Draxton's history. I think, however, that some attempt should be made to consolidate the Draxton story since much has been written on it here. For instance, the reprint stories in this very issue and there are a lot of contradictions. "Spunge of the Dragon Queen" was mildly enjoyable, this series was drawn out too long and this episode seemed to be merely catch-up, since most of it was expected.

The reprints were a fairly good selection (although I protest at having a reprint cover) and I hope that this will be instead of an all-reprint issue.

THE MAD MAPLE
Toronto, Ontario

**Vampi's
Scarlet Letters**
CO WARREN PUBLISHING
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VAMPIRELLA

IT IS BY THE MEREST *MISCHANCE* THAT OUR BEAUTIFUL HEROINE FROM THE *VAMPIRE* PLANET OF *DRAKULON* BECOMES INVOLVED IN THE CULT OF HUITZILOPOCHTLI. IT IS A WRY THOUGHT THAT SHE, WHO CAN ONLY LIVE AS A NORMAL WOMAN BY DRINKING *BLOOD SUBSTITUTE* SERUM EVERY TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE ALTAR - THERE TO PROVIDE A BLOOD-FEAST FOR THE UNSLAKEABLE, THE ALL-DEMANDING, THE ALL-CONSUMING THIRST OF ...

THE GOD OF BLOOD



THE PRICELESS TREASURES OF ITZCOATL, FOURTH KING OF THE AZTECS, ARE TO BE COMPARED WITH THE TREASURES OF TUTANKHAMEN OR THE AS YET UNDISCOVERED FUNERARY ARTIFACTS OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT, DISCOVERED IN YUCATAN IN 1970. THEY HAVE BEEN TOTTED ROUND THE WORLD... AND ARE NOW DOING GREAT BUSINESS IN NEW YORK'S MUSEUM OF CIVILIZATION, WHERE NEARLY 5,000 PEOPLE A DAY STAND IN LINE TO VIEW THE BLOOD-DRENCHED RELICS OF 15TH CENTURY MEXICO.

INSIDE, THEY ARE GUIDED BY THE RELICS...

THIS IS THE THRONE OF ITZCOATL. SEATED IN THIS, THE KING WITNESSED THE SLAUGHTER OF TEN THOUSAND PRISONERS AFTER HE HAD DEFEATED KING AZCAPOTZALCO OF THE TEPANECOS.

THIS IS TO WARN YOU THAT THE MUSEUM CLOSSES IN HALF AN HOUR! MOST OF YOU FOLKS WON'T GET IN TODAY!

THIS IS THE SUN-GOD HUITZILOPOTLI... CONDEMNED TO DIE EVERY EVENING AND TO BE REBORN WITH EVERY DAWN! TO GIVE HIM THE STRENGTH FOR THIS, THE AZTECS SUSTAINED HIM WITH THE BLOOD OF HUMAN SACRIFICE! RIVERS OF BLOOD, FOLKS! RIVERS OF BLOOD!

ON OUR NEXT EXHIBIT... THE ALTAR OF THE SUN-GOD. ON THIS IT IS ACCURATELY ESTIMATED THAT SOMETHING LIKE HALF A MILLION PEOPLE HAD THEIR CHESTS TORN OPEN AND THE HEARTS RIPPED FROM THEIR LIVING FLESH!

A-A-A-HHH! NO! NO!



IN MEXICO CITY, THE GREAT PENDING, ILLUSIONIST EXTRAORDINAIRE, HAS ARRIVED FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF MAGICIANS. WITH HIM... NATURALLY... IS HIS ASSISTANT AND CONSTANT COMPANION... THE BEAUTIFUL VAMPIRELLA!



THIS IS THE INTERNATIONAL ILLUSIONIST DOO HUIZ AND HIS ASSISTANT ZAPPA... ALSO IN TOWN FOR (AMONG OTHER AND MORE QUESTIONABLE PROCEEDINGS) THE CONVENTION.



I CAN HARDLY WAIT, MASTER! MY FINGERS ITCH TO RIP AND REND!

YOU WILL HAVE TO WAIT, DOG!



TOUCHING ON THE MATTER OF SPIRIT, I THINK A LITTLE FORTIFICATION MIGHT BE IN ORDER!



OTHER EYES ARE UPON THE ILL-ASSORTED PAIR...

A PERFECT CREATURE, ZAPPA! TRUE COSMIC SPLENDOR! I MUST HAVE HER!



THERE MUST BE NO HASTY BUNGLES! NO REPETITION OF THAT ZESTLESS SPECTACLE YOU CREATED AT THE MUSEUM OF CIVILIZATION...!

...THIS TIME, IT MUST BE DONE WITH STYLE!

AS A GUESTIN--RIDER, TO THE CONVENTION, THE DOLES-ITES GIVE A SHOW AT THE OPERA HOUSE. A HIGH SPOT OF THE SHOW IS... NATURALLY... THE GREAT PENOR-IGON!

TRY NOT TO BLOW IT THIS TIME, PENNY DEAR. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SAY "ABRA-CADABRA!" AND NOT FALL DOWN. LEAVE THE REST TO ME.

I HAD NEVER THOUGHT, AWO... THAT I WOULD ONE DAY LIVE ON THE LABORS OF A PERSON OF THE NYC FEMALE PERSUASION!



WILD APPLAUSE ROCKS THE OPERA HOUSE, /S VAMPIRELL/ MATERIALIZES IN HER BAT-FORM!



THE GREAT PENOR-IGON IS HARD TO FOLLOW... BUT DEO WITZE FOLLOWS HIM...



DECHLETTE'S ACT IS OF A KIND TWO...

MELT...!

...COULD HAVE KILLED WUDEWILLE...

COLLAPSE!...

...THE MOTION-PICTURE
INDUSTRY, AND T.V.!

DISPERSE
TO THE DUST OF
THE AIR!

IT'S HORRIBLE...!
HORRIBLE AND
EVIL...

IT LEAVES ME
WITH THE NEED
FOR...A LITTLE
FORTIFICATION...

LATER, IN HIS HOTEL SUITE, DR. MUTZ IS SERVED
CHAMPAGNE BY HIS ALCONSTITUTED ASSISTANT.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS
FOR THE GIRL, VAMPIRELLA,
MASTER?

TOMORROW WE WILL
CELEBRATE THE FESTIVAL
OF THE NEW MOON AT THE
TEMPLE OF TENOCHTILAN...

THE PERFECT FACE OF THE EVIL ILLUSIONIST
TURNS ON A NEW ANIMATION: THE EYES BURN WITH THE
LIGHT OF COSMIC MADNESS...

TOMORROW NIGHT WHEN
THE FIRST SHAFT OF
MOONLIGHT TOUCHES THE
ALTAR STONE OF
TENOCHTILAN, HER
SACRIFICED SPIRIT
WILL RISE ABOVE THE
EARTH... LIKE THE
RISING MOON...

AND SHE WILL JOIN HER LOVER, THE SUN. THEY WILL
EMBRACE THROUGH AN ETERNITY OF CEASELESS PASSION!



THE MOMENT OF ECSTASY PASSES! HUITZ RELAXES WITH A GRUNT...



BENEATH THE MASK LIES THE *RADDLED* FACE OF A DEDICATED DEBAUCHEE!

I SHALL NOW SLEEP. YOU KNOW YOUR ORDERS... SEE TO IT THAT VAMPIRELLA IS READY FOR ME TOMORROW NIGHT AT THE TEMPLE OF TENOCHTILAN!

HUITZ SLEEPS. BUT, IN HIS DREAM, AN *UNEARTHLY SPIRIT* MATERIALIZES...

WHY... WHY DO YOU DISTURB MY SLUMBERS?

I BRING YOU A WARNING, HUITZ...

THE SPIRIT'S NAME AND ORIGIN HAVE NO PART IN THIS STORY. HE IS MERELY A SERVANT... ONE OF THE COUNTLESS ARCADE OF SUCH... OF THE MAD, BANISHED GOD CHAOS!

A WARNING?
OF WHAT?

YOU HAVE BEEN GRANTED
MUCH, HITE. BUT EVEN YOUR
SOUL, IN ALL ITS INCREDIBLE
VILENESS, IS NOT WORTH
AN INFINITY...

YOU HAVE THE
POWER TO DESTROY AT WILL!
YOU HAVE BEEN INVESTED WITH
A HALF-PART OF ETERNITY IN
WHICH TO WALLOW IN YOUR
VILE LUSTS...

BE CONTENT WITH
THAT, HITE. DO NOT
STRETCH YOUR HAND PAST
THE VEIL OF UNKNOWNING...
DO NOT ATTEMPT TO
ARRAIGN YOURSELF AGAINST
POWERS BEYOND YOUR
UNDERSTANDING.

BE WARNED... OR YOU
MAY PUT YOURSELF BEYOND THE
REACH, EVEN, OF CHAOS!

AS QUICKLY AS IT APPEARED, THE SPIRIT
VANISHED AND HITE AWAKES.

TO HELL WITH
CHAOS! TOMORROW
NIGHT, I SHALL
POSSESS THE HEART
OF VAMPIRELLA!

PENDRAGON SPENT ALL THE NEXT DAY
TYPICALLY... IN A DOWNTOWN BAR...

YOU SHOULD BE A HAPPY MAN, MY
FRIEND! SPEAKING AS A LIFELONG
IMBIBER OF THE DISTILLED ESSENCE
OF CEREAL GRAINS, I SALUTE YOU AS A
HIGH PRIEST AND DISPENSER OF
THE DIVINE BREW... A LATTER-DAY
GANYMEDE!



IT'S A HELLUM
LIFE THIS SIDE,
WISTER!

HE IS SAFE TILL SUNSET... BUT THEN...



NOW!

UNPREDICTABLE HAS SPENT ALL HER DAY IN HER
HOTEL SUITE! AT SUNDOWN, SHE PREPARED
TO TAKE THE BLOOD SUBSTITUTE WITHOUT
WHICH SHE CANNOT LIVE AS A NORMAL WOMAN.



A THOUGHT-TRANSFERENCE JAMS HER NERVE-
ENDS... EMPTIES HER MIND OF ALL ELSE!



PENDY...!
PENDY...! YOU'RE
IN SOME AWFUL
DANGER!

THAT SAME EXTRA-SENSORY PERCEPTION
GUIDES HER TO THE DOWNTOWN BAR...



THEY'VE
ALREADY TAKEN
HIM AWAY!

SOON SHE IS RUNNING THROUGH THE WILD AND
WILLY COUNTRYSIDE ABOVE THE CITY, THROUGH
THE MOONLESS NIGHT...



I FEEL THE
HEARBEAT OF
APPROACHING
EVIL...!

THE SHAPE OF A GIANT PYRAMID JUTS OUT OF THE BLACKNESS AHEAD. VAMPRELLA SENSES, RATHER THAN SEES, THE UNCOUNTABLE STEPS, WORN WITH THE FEET OF TIME, UP WHICH THE DESPAIRING ANELOCANS HAVE BEEN DRAGGED TO THEIR GHASTLY END. THIS IS THE VERITABLE HOUSE OF MOLOCAUSTS, THE ABODE OF BLOOD. THE HEART OF THE AZTEC RELIGION. THE DWELLING-PLACE OF THE SUN-GOD HUTZILOPOCHTLI... THE SACRIFICIAL TEMPLE OF TENOCHTITLAN!



IT'S A TRAP... I'M SURROUNDED!

VAMPRELLA IS SEIZED AND BORN ALOFT, UP THE BLOOD-BLACKENED STEPS!



TORCHES FLARE IN THE NIGHT, THE BLUISH-GOLD LIGHT UP THE FACES OF HUTZILOPOCHTLI'S DEVOTEES... THE CALISTS OF BLOOD!



YOU HAVE COME!

SHE HAS COME! SHE HAS COME!

COME...

COME...

COME...

COME...

BOUND HAND AND FOOT, ON THE DECEASED ALTAR!

O, MIGHTY HUTZILOPOCHTLI! LORD OF THE DAY-SKY! BEHOLD WE HAVE BROUGHT THY SISTER, THE MOON, TO BE THY SACRIFICE! APPEAR TO THY CHILDREN HUTZILOPOCHTLI! MAKE KNOWN THY WISHES CONCERNING THY SISTER, THE MOON!



GIVE ME THE LIVING HEART OF MY SISTER, THE MOON!



I SPEAK!

I WILL POSSESS MY SISTER, THE MOON, IN AN ETERNAL EMBRACE!



THE SACRIFICIAL KNIFE IS RAISED...LOFT /BOVE THE
M-RED SRE/ST OF VAMPIRELLA...THE PEARSONS
INNO-CTION MADE....



PREPARE, O
SPIRIT OF THE
MOON, TO RISE
ABOVE THE EARTH
AND JOIN YOUR
LOVER, THE SUN,
THROUGH BLOOD
TO ETERNITY...
THROUGH DEATH
TO CEASELESS
PASSION!

AT THAT INSTANT THE FIRST RAYS OF THE RISING
MOON TOUCH THE ALMA STONE... THERE IS SILENCE
...FOLLOWED BY A... **THUNDERBOLT!**



WHO IS THE **BEING** WHO TOWERS ABOVE THE TEMPLE OF TEVOCHTLAN AND
MARKED IMPOSTER HE, NO **SABASTIC LETCHER** WITH A MORTGAGED
SOUL... NO **BLASPHEMER**, NO **PURFERER** OF THE POCKET OF ETERNITY...



...HE IS THE **VERITABLE**
HUITZILPOCHTLI,
SUN-GOD OF THE
AZTECS!!

TOD LITE, DRO HITE REG-LLS THE M-RAWING...EVEN THE
M-IO, B-ANISHED GOD, CHAOS, TO M-OM HE HAS SOLD HIS
SOUL... CAN-NOE SAVE HIM NOW? HE HAS IMPERSONATED THE
SUN...BY THE SUN MUST HE PERISH!



AAAAAN!...NO!..
NO!...ALL-HIGHEST!..
MERCY! HER...

THE SUN SEARS, OULITERATES!
AND IT IS OVER...



IT IS THEN THAT **VAMPIRELLA**... DEPRIVED OF HER BLOOD SUBSTITUTE... DRENCHES HERSELF INTO A **METAMORPHOSIS**. IN HER **BAT-PERSONA**, SHE FLIES AT THE BARED THROAT OF THE FALSE PRIEST, **ZARNA!**

EEEEEE-AAAA....



GORGED WITH THE LIFE-ENHANCING **BLOOD**, THE BEAUTIFUL **DRAKULONNE** RAISES HER HEAD...

YOU WANT ME?



HUITZILOPOCHTLI RAISES HER UP HIGH ABOVE THE EARTH, HIGH ABOVE TENOCHTILAN AND THE SLEEPING CITY! THEY EMBRACE IN A **COSMIC PASSION...**



...AND **PEO HUITZ**'S VISION IS COMPLETE!

HUITZILOPOCHTLI, THE MIGHTY SUN-GOD HAS TAKEN THE **DRAKULONNE** GIRL AS HIS OWN...!

VAMPIRELLA

INSIDE EVERY GIRL IS *ANOTHER GIRL* WHO WANTS TO GET OUT / NO MARRY / *MILLIONAIRE!* GOLD -
DIGGERS ARE *EVERYWHERE* THESE DAYS.

YOU WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IF YOU WERE THE
AMBITIOUS MOTHER OF THE *BEAUTIFUL*
DRAMATONIAN, VAMPIRELLA, THAT THE
LITTLE GIRL HAD DONE PRETTY WELL... TO GET
HERSELF ENGAGED TO A *SUN-GOD*...
WOULDN'T YOU?

IT FALLS TO FEW GIRLS TO JARRID TO BE CHAINED, AND THE
WAY THINGS ARE NOW DAYS, COUNTS, DUKES, PRINCES AND
EMPERORS ARE EVEN HARDER FOR A BRIGHT GIRL TO GET
HER WELL-WIN NEEDED HOOKS INTO.

WHICH ONLY GOES TO SHOW THAT YOU'VE NO IDEA WHAT
IT CAN DO TO A GIRL, TO BE...

THE BETROTHED OF THE SUN-GOD!



AND *VAMPIRELLA*,
OUR RAVEN-HAIRED
SIREN, IS ONLY NOW
BEGINNING TO COMPREHEND THIS
HERSELF...

IT HAPPENED ONLY SCANT SECONDS BEFORE...
IN PARIS, THE CITY OF LIGHT, CRADLE OF
EUROPEAN CIVILIZATION, HOME OF...

THE CHAMPS ELYSE... WITH ITS OUTDOOR
CAFES AND SHOPPES... WHERE ONE CAN APERTIF
AND THINKS AND LOOKS... OR AT LEAST **LOOKS**...

LOOKS AT THE
**SIDEWALK
STROLLERS**. THE
PARISIENS AND THE
PARISIENNES... THE
FLÂNEURS, SERENE
IN THE CHAIRSIDE OF
THEIR INWARD-
LOOKING
NARCISSISM, THE
PRETTY WOMEN,
THE TYRIS, THE
BROADS...



ONE WOMAN, OH
THIS PARTICULAR
COCKTAIL HOUR MAKES
THE OTHER STROLLERS
OF THE CHAMPS
ELYSE SEEM LIKE
SACKS OF POTATOES
DONE UP WITH STRIPS...

ONE LEOPARD-
SKINNED
PACKAGE OF
**FEMME
FAZZZ**
K... & EVERY EYE
TURNING...

ONE EXPERIENCED ONLOOKER, IN PARTICULAR, IS
ENCHANTED BY WHAT HE SEES. SAURAN EYES WIDEN
WITH DESIRE, HE TAKES TO HIS FEET...



AND THE OLD GENTLEMAN STROLLS WITHIN TOUCHING
DISTANCE OF HIS DESIRES...



...A SEARING, FENOL-THIN FLASH OF **SUNLIGHT**-
TURNS HIM INTO A HEAP OF SHOULDERING **ASH**!



AND **THAT** WAS THE END OF **THAT**!

THE CURIOUS PSYCHO AND BODY CHEMISTRY THAT COMMANDS OUR LIVES AND DESIRES IT'S THROWN TOGETHER THE RAUNCHING, BLOOD-THIRSTING BEAUTY FROM THE PLANET DRACULON AND THE ELDERLY, DYINGLY LUSH, THEIR RELATIONSHIP IS PLATONIC AND SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE.

HE DID IT AGAIN, PENDY!
THIS NICE OLD GENTLEMAN
WAS JUST GOING TO SAY
"HELLO" TO ME...WHEN
... SPLAT!!

AMFUL TO
CONTEMPLATE,
WASH MY
DEAR!

THAT'S RIGHT, HE'S GIVEN ME
TILL NEXT NEW MOON TO MAKE UP
MY MIND, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.
MEANWHILE... ANY MAN WHO SO
MUCH AS LOOKS AT ME IN THAT
KIND OF WAY GETS **BURNED**
TO ASHES!

YOU REALLY ARE
QUITE...ER, ATTRACTED
TO HIS HUITZLOPOCHTLI
FELLER, AREN'T YOU,
MY DEAR?

HAHAHA!
WHEN A GIRL'S
MADE IT WITH A
SUN-GOD, SHE'S
KIND OF SPOILED
FOR EVERY OTHER
MAN!

LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT, DEAR... AFTER WHAT
HAPPENED IN MEXICO, YOU ARE NOW BETROTHEN
TO THE AZTEC SUN GOD HUITZLOPOCHTLI.

HOWEVER, THE COURTSHIP CAN ONLY TAKE PLACE ON
ONE NIGHT A MONTH... ON THE NIGHT OF THE NEW
MOON. AND, IF YOU WANT TO
IMPROVE ON THIS... LIKE, IF
YOU WANT TO EMBRACE
THROUGH AN ETERNITY
OF CEASELESS MISSION
... YOU FIRST HAVE TO
DIE! DO I GET IT
RIGHT?

PENDY, SON AND VAMPIRELLA ARE IN PURS FOR A REASON

MY AUNT AGATHA, WHO MARRIED A
FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH
REPUBLIC, MAY HAVE LEFT HER
CONSIDERABLE FORTUNE TO ME.
THE ONLY TROUBLE IS, I DON'T
KNOW HER WHEREABOUTS.
OR, EVEN IF SHE IS
STILL IN THE LAND
OF THE LIVING...

AND THAT'S WHY
YOU INSISTED WE
COME TO PARIS,
PENDY? YOU EXPECT
TO FIND YOUR
AUNT HERE?

PERHAPS, I HAVE HERE... A LETTER... "CHER MONSIEUR,
I HAVE HEARD OF YOUR TROUBLE. IT IS MY LIFE'S WORK
TO HELP SUCH AS YOURSELF, PRESENT YOURSELF AT
THE VILLA GASPARD, IN THE RUE GUILLOTINE,
AND I SHALL BE PLEASED TO CONDUCT A
SEANCE, TO SEE IF YOUR LOVED ONE HAS
CROSSED THE VOID" SIGNED...
AMELIE DE MORT!

THE *BLUE GUILLOTINE* IS NAMED AFTER THAT SAME DOCTOR JOSEPH IGNACE GUILLOTIN WHO INTRODUCED THE FAMOUS MACHINE OF DECAPITATION TO FRANCE. THE *VILLA GASPARY* AT LEAST STANDS MORE SALUBRIOUS THAN THE VICTIMS WHOSE EXECUTIONS IT HAS WITNESSED.

THERE IS A SEANCE PROCEEDING IN THE VILLA, AND AMALIE DE MORT IS SPEAKING WITH THE TONGUE OF THE DEAD.

ELOISE... ELOISE,
MY DARLING... IT IS
YOUR MAMA
CALLING YOU...

MAMA! OH, MAMA!
TELL ME WHAT I
MUST DO!



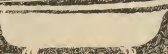
ELOISE, MAMA
IS WORRIED FOR
YOU... TRUST NO ONE
BUT DEAR, MADAME
DE MORT... SEE THE
NOTARY TOMORROW
AND MAKE DEAR,
MADAME DE MORT THE
HEIRESS TO YOUR
FORTUNE...



THERE IS ANOTHER SIDE TO THIS BUSINESS THAT
IS CARRIED ON AT THE VILLA GASPARY...



AH... I SEE YOU
HAVE ALREADY
PREPARED THE
BATH!



BUT THIS IS NO ORDINARY BATH WATER... ITS KISS **BURNS** AND DESTROYS... SOMETHING LIKE **ACID!**

AS A MATTER OF FACT
A WHOLE LOT LIKE
ACID!

THERE GOES
ANOTHER TEN MILLION
FRANCS INTO THE PURSE
OF MADAME!

A VOICE...

HER BEAUTY MAKES
THE BRIGHT WORLD DIM,
AND EVERYTHING BESIDE
SEEMS LIKE THE FADING
IMAGE OF A SHADE.

OH!

MORNING COMES. THE BLUE SKY AND THE WINE-LIKE
AIR TAKES MADAMELLA DOWN TO THE BANKS OF THE
IMMORTAL **SEINE**.

SO LOVELY... I
HAVEN'T BEEN SO
HAPPY SINCE I LEFT
ORAKULON.
SOMETIMES I FEEL
THAT OLD EARTH
COULD REALLY BROOGE
HOME TO ME.

YOU'RE A
POET... YOU
WROTE
THAT?

I AM A POET... YES.
BUT THAT WAS WRITTEN
BY A GREATER POET
THAN I SHALL EVER
BE!

SHELLEY WAS INSPIRED BY LOVELINESS. I, TOO,
FEEL **INSPIRATION** COURAGING THROUGH MY VEINS.
I THINK I SHALL WRITE A POEM, FOR YOU THAT WILL
BE THE BEST THING I HAVE EVER DONE, OR SHALL
EVER DO.

I... I WOULD
LOVE THAT.

AT THAT MOMENT, IT IS AS IF A CLOUD SUISES ACROSS
THE SUN. MADAMELLA SHIVERS WITH A SUDDEN CHILL -
AND SHE REMEMBERS...

NO!
PLEASE! NOT THIS ONE!
NOT HIM!

MAM'SELLE?
I DO NOT
UNDERSTAND.



THAT NIGHT, WHILE WAMPRELA IS CHANGING TO GO OUT...



THE MOON LOOKS DOWN BENEVOLENTLY THROUGH HER WINDOW.



AT THE VILLA SERRAVALLO, MADAME DE MORT AND HER SPOUSE ARE HOLDING A "BUSINESS CONFERENCE."

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THIS PENDRAGON CHARACTER, MY DEAR AMELIE?

SMALL FRY! I THINK MAYBE I SHALL TELL HIM THAT HIS AUNT IS DEAD AND MILK HIM FOR CONSULTATION FEES TILL THE SITUATION BECOMES MORE CLEAR.

WHAT OF ELOISE DUALIER?

SHE HAS OBEYED HER DARLING 'MAMA' AND IS BRINGING THE WILL ROUND HERE TONIGHT! SERGE WILL DISPOSE OF HER IN THE USUAL MANNER!

EXCELLENT!

SHORTLY AFTER, WAMPIRELLA AND PENDRAGON ARRIVE IN THE RUE GUILLOTINE.

THANKS TO THE THRILL OF THE POEM, I FORGOT TO DRINK MY BLOOD SUBSTITUTE BEFORE I CAME OUT! IT'S BEEN JUST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS SINCE THE LAST DOSE, I AM IN A VERY CRITICAL STATE OF BLOOD-LUST!

IF I WERE TO BE OVER-STIMULATED, I COULD BE DANGEROUS TO ANYONE WHO PRESENTED A BARED JUGULAR!

I WON'T WORRY PENDING WITH IT, AFTER ALL, WHAT CAN BECOME OF SOME OLD SNAKE?

PLEASE TO ENTER, MADAME AWAITS YOU.

MADAME DE MORT? MY NAME'S...

I FEEL THE VIBRATIONS BEGINNING! A PRESENCE IS IN THIS ROOM! BE SEATED AT ONCE, AND LET THE SEANCE COMMENCE!

A VOICE OF THUNDER SPLITS THE SILENCE OF THE VILLA!

LET THE UNIVERSE TREMBLE! I AM HUITZILOPOCHTLI, LORD OF THE SUN! I HAVE BEEN DEFILED! THE BETROTHED OF THE SUN-GOD HAS PLAYED THE HARLOT!

NO... NO!

WAS NOT THE BLOOD OF
COUNTLESS MILLIONS SHED
FOR THE SUN-GOD'S DELIGHT?
NOW THEN SHALL MUTELOPOONTU
BE PLACATED? THE BLOOD OF ONE
MERE POET IS NOT ENOUGH TO WIP
OUT THE SHAME!

...LET IT BE KNOWN THAT, TO ATO
FOR MY BETROTHED'S BETRAYAL,
THIS CITY AND ALL IN IT, INCLUDING
THE ACCURSED POET... SHALL PERISH
TOMORROW AT NOONDAY!

MADAME AWAKENS, THE SCENE BREAKS UP IN CONFUSION...

WHERE...
WHERE
AM I?

MONSEUR, AND MADAMOISELLE,
I MUST ENTREAT YOU TO LEAVE.
MY WIFE IS, AS YOU SEE, VERY
DISTRESSED.

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO,
AMRUE... PUT US OUT OF
BUSINESS? WHAT WAS ALL
THAT HOGWASH ABOUT
THE SUN-GOD?

SUN-GOD? WHO
SAID ANYTHING ABOUT
A SUN-GOD? I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE TALKING
ABOUT! SO GET
ME A DRINK... I
FEEL ANGRY!

OUTSIDE, IN THE RUE GULLOTINE...

THAT WAS THE
AUTHENTIC VOICE
OF YOUR
BETROTHED...
RIGHT?

THAT WAS MUTELOPOONTU!
BECAUSE THAT BOY'S POEM
TOUCHED AT MY HEART, HE'S
GOING TO TURN PARIS INTO
A HOLOCAUST!

SUDDENLY...

HE-E-E-ELP!
FOR PITY'S
SAKE, HELP
ME!

WE DON'T WANNA GET
MIXED UP IN *ANY* MORE
TROUBLE, VAMPI! LET'S
GET THE HELL OUTTA THIS
NEIGHBORHOOD!

I SENSE THE PRESENCE
OF LIFE-LOATHING EVIL...
I'VE FELT IT EVER SINCE
I CAME HERE...



THE LOVELY DRAGONLORD METAMORPHOSES IN HER
BAT-PERSONA...



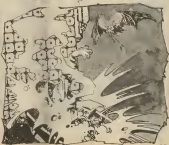
BLONCE DUNALER IS POISED ON THE *THRESHOLD*
OF ETERNITY!

HEH! ONE MORE
LINGERING *SQUEEZE*...
THEN INTO THE *BATH*
WITH YOU MY
PETITE!



THE BAT'S NEEDLE-SHARP *FANGS* SINK DEEP AND
THE TINY MOUTH SLICKS IN *NOT LIFE-BLOOD*!

GNAAAA-AAGGGHH!



NO ONE SEES THEM, NO ONE HINDERS THEM... AS VAMPIRELLA LEADS THE SMOONING WRLD OUT OF THE HOUSE OF HORROR.

OH, NO! WHA-
WHAT'S HAPPENED
TO HER?

PUT THAT FLASK AWAY
AND CALL A CAB! THIS KID'S
HAD ALL SHE CAN HANDLE
TONIGHT!

YOUNG
OLIVIA



THERE WILL
NEVER BE A
TENTH VICTIM,
SUGGS! I THINK
I SEE A WAY TO *END*
THE WORLD FOREVER
OF THE DE MORTS!

...AND,
INCIDENTALLY
SAVE PARIS!



LATER, IN VAMPIRELLA'S HOTEL ROOM...

SO THE DE MORTS
TRICKED YOU INTO
MAKING THAT WOMAN
YOUR HE-RESS?



YES! I HANDED OVER
THE WILL TONIGHT, AND
THEN THAT... *THAT*
HUMAN BEAST... BOGAN
TO KILL ME! HE BOASTED
THAT I WAS THE *TENTH*
VICTIM!

IN THE DAWN, THE GIRL, HIGH DRAGON, CLIMBS TO
MONTMARTRE; THERE, HIGH ABOVE THE SLEEPING CITY
OF LIGHT, SHE OFFERS HERSELF TO THE FLAMING BALL OF
THE RISING SUN...

HUTE-KOPCHU! LORD
OF THE SUN! YOUR BETROTHED CONFESSES
HER FAULT! IT'S TRUE I ALLOWED MYSELF
TO BE BLINDED WITH *TENDERNESS*... BUT
I SWEAR I WILL NEVER SEE THE POST
AGAIN!



I REALIZE THAT
THE *SHAME* MUST BE
WIPE OUT WITH *BLOOD*!
BUT NOT THE WHOLE OF ME!
MY BETROTHED! STRIKE WITH
YOUR *THUNDERBOLT* ON
JUST ONE SPOT...AND
DESTROY EVERYTHING
THERE!



WHO IS THIS WHO LOOMS OVER THE NUKEMO CITY,
RIDING THE SKY IN A CHARIOT OF FLAME?

IT IS HUITZLOPOCHTLI, SUN-GOD OF THE AZTECS!
ONLY THE EYES OF VAMPYRELLA CAN BEHOLD HIM...FOR AN
ORDINARY MORTAL TO LOOK UPON THE SUN IS TO COURT
BLINDNESS AND DEATH!

HUITZLOPOCHTLI IS
PLACATED; YOU ARE PARDONED.
MY BETROTHED, MY THUNDERBOLT
SHALL FALL WHERE YOU DIRECT!
PARENELL...TILL THE NIGHT OF
THE NEW MOON, WHEN
HUITZLOPOCHTLI WILL
REQUIRE YOUR
ANSWER!

I WILL GIVE
YOU MY ANSWER
...ON THAT
NIGHT!

THE MIDDAY SUN SHOWS UP THE MULLOBBING STONES
OF THE VILLA GASPARINI IN A FITLESS GLARE.



THE DE MORTS ARE PUZZLED AND FRIGHTENED.

WHERE'S THE GIRL? THAT'S
WHAT I WANT TO KNOW!
AND WHAT HAPPENED TO
SERGE? TELL ME THAT!

YOU ARE GETTING
SHRILL, MY DEAR!
QUITE SIMPLY, THE
TIME HAS COME TO
CLOSE DOWN THE
BUSINESS AND
RETIRE TO...



MADAME NEVER FINISHES; AT MIDDAY, A SEARING
SRAFT OF SUNLIGHT BLASTS FROM THE ZENITH...
SCORCHING THE VILLA GASPARINI TO ASHES...

...AND ALL IN IT!



ON THE NIGHT OF THE NEW MOON, THE LOVELY DRAGONLADY KEEPS HER TRYST WITH HER BETROTHED, HUTELOPCHIT! RAISES HER UP, HIGH ABOVE THE CITY OF LIGHT...



THEY EMBRACE IN A COSMIC FASHION... BUT...



IT WAS NOT THE SAME! EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED! YOU HAVE CHANGED!



YES, I HAVE CHANGED, AND THIS MUST BE MY ANSWER... I CANNOT JOIN YOU IN YOUR ETERNAL JOURNEYS ACROSS THE OUTER VOID! FOR ME, THERE CANNOT BE AN ETERNITY OF CEASELESS PASSION!

IT TOOK A WALK BESIDE THE RIVER SINE... A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG POET... AND HIS POETRY... TO BRING ME DOWN TO EARTH.



AS SHE SAYS, LATER, TO FONDRI GON...



THE COMIC BOOKS

by Joe Brancatelli

LET OUR FOREFATHERS
TOLD US

Remember civics class and all that stuff about the brilliance of the American judicial system? Remember when they told you that justice is blind? Remember when they told you that everyone is equal under the law? Remember when they told you that the laws will always be administered fairly and without favor no matter how big or how important that person might be?

Well, "they" all lied.

The clear fact of the matter is that the bigger and more important you are, the more protection the court is going to give you. The clear fact of the matter is that the smaller you are, the less famous you are, the more inclined the court will be to lean against you and against your rights.

These are startling revelations—these incredible revelations of "the American Way"—came from a recent Supreme Court decision involving a hotly contested, 8-year-old copyright lawsuit. By refusing to hear the appeal of a group of artists known as the "Air Pirates" in their battle against the mighty Walt Disney Studios, the Supreme Court has all but sectioned the belief that "Big Money" and "Big Business" and big everything are, indeed, ruled by a different set of laws than the rest of us. By refusing to step in and consider a fairly lower-court decision involving Disney and the Air Pirates, the Supreme Court has destroyed the myth that everyone is protected equally under the statutes of this nation.

If you're not familiar with the so-called "Air Pirates case," some background is definitely in order.

Back in 1971, a group of so-called "underground artists" led by Dan (Ood Bodkins) O'Neill and Bobby (Dirty Duck) London published two issues of a comic magazine called *Air Pirates Pantheon*. The two books contained incredibly funny, phenomenally well-drawn and

true-to-Disney parodies of Walt Disney's Mickey Mouse character.

There was no doubt that O'Neill's mouse was a parody of Mickey and Minnie Mouse; there was also no doubt that these two bogus rodents were involved in most of Disneylike situations. Perhaps the most astonishing part of the O'Neill parody—or at least the part which generated the most publicity—was the scene where Mickey makes love to Minnie.

When Disney Studios saw the parody, they were furious. Always an aggressive protector of their copyrighted material, the Disney folks felt *Air Pirates* must be stopped to curtail infringement on their property rights. But there seemed to be something else, too: It was bad enough these people had parodied Mickey, you could hear Disney saying, but it was downright un-American to show Mickey and Minnie getting it on like two normal rats.

The Disney organization threatened O'Neill and company into court later in 1971. Almost immediately, the court halted publication of the third issue of *Air Pirates*. Disney lawyers continued to fight, however. Disney won a large monetary settlement from the artists, a ban against further publication of *Air Pirates* material and a decision that O'Neill's characters, even though they were a parody, were still an infringement on Disney's legitimate copyrights.

The most astonishing rule-



ing was made by the Court of Appeals earlier this year, however. It was that ruling which the Supreme Court stood by refusing to hear an appeal from the Air Pirates group.

In trying to decide the thorny issue of whether O'Neill's parody of Mickey and Minnie was "fair use" of copyrighted Disney material or an unacceptable infringement on Disney property, the Appeals Court said it needed to establish a "balancing test." On one side was O'Neill's rights of parody and free speech. On the other, Disney's legitimate ownership of the characters being parodied.

The "balance" the court decided on was one that should be struck "at giving the parodist what is necessary to conjure up the original." In other words, anyone wanting to parody something is allowed to use only as much of the item being parodied as is needed to convince the reader of the identity of the item being lampooned. If a parodist steps over the line and borrows too much of the original for his parody, something the court decided O'Neill did, then it is no longer parody, but copyright infringement.

Notwithstanding the fact that by using the "just enough" test the court has set itself up as an artistic censor (the court, after all, decides whether the artist used too much or not enough or just enough), there is even a more frightening precedent here.

By using the "just enough" test, the court has sectioned different, unequal rules. One set is for big, important and well-known industries like Disney. The other set is for smaller, poorer, less-well-known operations.

If taken literally, the court's balancing test will always curtail a parodist's freedom to use well-known characters like Mickey Mouse or Spider-Man or Superman.

On the other hand, the court's test says it's okay to copy the lesser-known. So while a parodist can barely "conjure up" the images of Mickey or Superman in order to parody them, he can all but free rein with the less known characters and can do anything with them en route to his parody.

And that, my friends, stinks.

It goes against everything we've ever learned about the American system. After two hundred years of being a classless society where everyone is protected equally, the courts have decided to form a two-class society.

The upper class, the untouchables, are the famous and the well-known. They are to be the ones who are better protected and more closely guarded by the law. They are the ones who have been created "more equal" than the others. The other class, the lower class, is us, the rest of America, the average person on the street who isn't well known, isn't favored by the big bucks and isn't as famous as Mickey Mouse or Superman.

Welcome to the new America, folks. One nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all—except that the bigger you are, the more liberty and justice you're likely to get.



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I COULDN'T GET THE IMAGE OF THAT HORROR
ACTIVE **WILL** **OUT** OF MY HEAD...
LOATHSOME, **SKELETAL** **INHABITANTS**,
 THEIR **PALE**, **GAUNT** **FACES** **STARING** **BALL-**
FULLY **AT** **US** **FROM** **DEEP-SEAT** **HAUNTED**
EYES... **MOVING** **ABOUT** **ZOMBIE-LIKE** **IN** **THE**
STENCH **OF** **THEIR** **FILTH**.

IT **BEGAN** **THE** **DAY** **I** **VISITED** **CHADWICK**
IN **THE** **HOSPITAL**... **THE** **MEMORY** **WELLING** **UP**
IN **MY** **MIND** **BOTH** **DURING** **MY** **WAKING**
HOURS **AND** **IN** **MY** **DREAMS**, **LIKE** **THE** **GHOST**
OF **SOME** **DEAD** **UNANSWERED** **QUESTION**.

THOSE **SAVE** **VISIONS** **DROVE** **ME**, **AT** **LAST**, **TO**
CHADWICK'S **WAKENING**, **SEDUCED** **ME** **INTO**
OPENING **THE** **MASSIVE** **DOORS** **WITH** **MY** **OLD**
PASS **KEY** **AND** **ENTERING** **INTO** **THE** **SHADOWED**
MUSTY **CONFINES**.

I **HAD** **NEVER** **SEEN** **THE** **PLACE** **IN** **SUCH** **A**
STATE **OF** **NEGLECT**. **DUST** **AND** **ROBBERIES**
GLIMMERED **THE** **SILENT** **W** **W** **ROOMS**
AND **FORGOTTEN** **CORRIDORS**. **BUT** **THE** **KEEN-**
EST **OFFENSE** **WAS** **THE** **STENCH** **OF** **FILTH** **AND**
HUMAN **WASTE** **THAT** **MADE** **THE** **MEMORIES**
OF **THAT** **HORROR** **WILL** **BE** **A** **REALITY**.

SECOND CHILDHOOD

(GASP-SHUFF)...MY GOD!...
 WHERE IS IT COMING FROM?

I **DON'T** **BOTHER** **TRYING** **THE** **WALL**
SWITCH... **WITH** **NO** **ONE** **TO** **PAY** **THE**
BILLS **THERE**, **THE** **ELECTRICITY**
WOULD **HAVE** **BEEEN** **OFF** **FOR** **YEARS**.
THANK **GOD** **IT** **WAS** **NOT** **SUMMER**.



I **STUMBLED** **THROUGH** **THE** **GAZEBO**,
CAUTIOUSLY **PICKING** **MY** **WAY** **TO** **THE**
NURSERY...!

THE **MOMENT** **I** **RUSHED** **OPEN** **THE**
DOOR, **THE** **ROOM** **INCREASED**
TEN **FOLD**. **I** **GASPED**, **SQUINTING**
IN **THE** **DIRECTION** **OF** **THE** **CRAB**.
THERE **WAS** **NO** **MOVEMENT**. **I** **HELD** **MY** **BREATH** **AND** **FIXATED**
THE **BABY** **WAS** **ONLY** **SLEEPING**.



I **CROSSED** **THE** **ROOM** **SILENTLY** **AND**
PEERED **DOWN** **INTO** **THE** **SHADOWED**
CRAB... **CLOSED** **MY** **EYES** **AND** **GROANED**
IN **HORROR** **AT** **WHAT** **LAY** **BEFORE** **ME**.



IN MANY WAYS I DESPISED CHADWICK--I'D BEEN HIS CONSTANT COMPANION SINCE CHILDHOOD, AND I KNEW HE WAS SELFISH...AT TIMES, OUTRIGHT CRUEL. EVEN AS A CHILD.



YOU'RE A
BULLY, LIONEL
CHADWICK IS
A BULLY AND
A COWARD!

I QUITE
AGREE...I'VE
NEVER TRIED
TO BULLY IT!

HIS FATHER WAS THE WEALTHIEST MAN IN TOWN...MINE WAS THE POOREST! I OFTEN WONDERED IN LATER YEARS, WHY CHADWICK BEFRIENDED ME.

PERHAPS OPPOSITES ATTRACT...OR
PERHAPS HE HAD NO OTHER
FRIENDS NOR WANTED ANY.



CHAD, KNOWS, LET'S
GLOW THIS DUNKY HIGH-SCHOOL
DANCE.

I KNOW A PLACE WE
CAN HAVE SOME REAL FUN.
TO HELL WITH THESE
JUVENILES.

ENVY KEPT ME COMING BACK...ENVY OF CHAD'S RICHES...HIS EXTREME GOOD-LOOKS...THE POWER HE HAD OVER WOMEN...EVEN IN COLLEGE.



BUT WHY, CHAD? YOU
PROMISED YOU'D TAKE ME
TO THE SENIOR PROM!

CAUSE GLORIA WESTLEY IS
PRETTIER THAN YOU, NUMBER ONE...AND
BECAUSE GLORIA WESTLEY HAS PROMISED
ME A LITTLE "FUN" AFTER THE PROM.

I LIGHTED HIM...YET WAS FASCINATED BY IT ALL. AND, OF COURSE, I WAS ALLOWED TO PICK UP THE CRUMBS HE LEFT IN HIS WAKE.



I'LL NEVER (SHE) SEE HIM
AGAIN, DICK! I KNOW IT! OH,
I COULD JUST DIE... (SOS-SOS)

THERE, THERE, I'LL
DRIVE YOU HOME, KATHY.

PLEASE, CHAD...
I'LL DO ANYTHING
YOU ASK...EVEN...
EVEN...

THAT'S
BETTER. I'LL
PICK YOU UP
AT SEVEN.



OR MAYBE IT WAS SIMPLE AMAS-OCMAS. I BECAME INDEPENDENT ON CHAD AS HIS LATEST LOVER. I NEVER WORKED...I DON'T NEED TO. CHAD WAS MORE THAN GENEROUS WITH HIS MONEY.



HEY, KNOWBUTT! WHEN
YOU'RE THROUGH WITH THAT
BRUNETTE, SEND HER OVER
HERE FOR AWHILE!

HE EVEN GAVE ME MY OWN ROOM IN THE MANSION AFTER HIS FATHER DIED AND HE TOOK OVER THE BUSINESS. LIFE WAS SWEET WITH DECADENCE AND SELF-INDULGENCE.

I STOOD LIKE SOME SHADOWNY VOYEUR AS CHAD MARRIED AND DIVORCED FIVE TIMES IN THE SPACE OF TWO YEARS. HE HAS SO MANY LEGAL CROSS-CUTS AND FINANCIAL TE-UPS GOING AT ONCE I LOST COUNT.

AT ONE TIME I THINK HE WAS EVEN BRIEFLY MARRIED TO TWO WOMEN AT ONCE. TIME PASSED...



...CHAD GREW BORED. WOMEN LOVED HIM. ALL WOMEN. THERE WAS NO CHALLENGE. NOTHING GRATIFIED HIM. HE AWAKENED ME AT 3 A.M. ONE MORNING.

KNOBBY! KNOBBY! GET UP! PACK YOUR BAGS! WE'RE GOING ON A LITTLE TRIP!



...WHA-HUN...?

THE TROPICS...THE L. ST PLACE ANYONE WOULD CHOOSE FOR A VACATION.



SKATTER, KNOBBY? POOPED? WHERE'S THE OLD SCOUTING SPIRIT? HA-HA!

IT WAS INSUFFER- BLY HOT, RISE WITH INSULINE AND SICKNESS. NO INFESTED WITH VERMIN. CHADWICK WAS ECSTATIC.

I WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER MY FIRST SIGHT OF THAT FOUL VILLAGE, LYING STILL AND STAGNANT IN THE JUNGLE LIKE SOMETHING FROM AN OVERGROWN ROCK.



EVEN THE CRUDE HUTS WERE STEEPED SOMEHOW IN PEDESTALANCE. I GIVE ABUNDANT CREDIT TO MY DUBOIST. CHAD WAS FASCINATED...!

A LOST CIVILIZATION BY GOD...!

I HAD NEVER SEEN SUCH LOOKS OF UTTER DESPAIR IN MY LIFE AS THOSE FACES OF THOSE POOR WRETCHES...



IT'S TERR, CHAD. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE...!

NONSENSE! IT'S A FLOOPY HOOT!

THIS IS THE BRUTAL TRUTH: THE WHOLE WORLD WAS TERRIBLE CORSE, ENLARGED BY... DARK, HIDDEN SECRET TOO LOATHSOME TO DESCRIBE.

WE SOUGHT OUT THE CMSE. CHAD SPOKE A LITTLE OF THE BROKEN, HALF-ROTTEN LANGUAGE, ENOUGH FOR US TO INTERPRET THE GRAND TOUR.



WARRIORS...ALL WARRIORS...BRAVE MEN...

ABOUT AS BRAVE AS THE LADY'S AIDE SOCIETY, EH KNOBBY?

LOOK AT THEM...NOT A SPARK OF LIFE IN THEIR EYES...





ONCE IN THE BOAT SHE BECAME STRANGELY SUBMISSIVE. BUT HER FACE...BATHED IN THE GLOW FROM THE CRIMSON SHARBLINE... FILLED ME WITH URGE. SHE WAS LIKE A FLAMING STATUE!



NEEDS LIVER, BACK IN THE STATES. SHE WAS, IF ANYTHING, MORE DEFIANT EVER.

EH HRRAD YOUVE MET YOUR MATCH THIS TIME, CHAD...DISAPPOINTED?

ARE YOU SERIOUS? I HAVENT HAD A CHALLENGE LIKE THIS IN YEARS!

SHELL COME AROUND, YOU'LL SEE...

CHAD DRESSED HER IN THE FINEST CLOTHES, TOOK HER EVERYWHERE. SHE RAPIDLY BECAME THE TALK OF THE TOWN, HER DARK BEAUTY OUTING THE PALE NEW YORK DEBUTANTES TO SHAME.



AND TRENA...CHAD'S NAME FOR HER...ACCEPTED IT ALL WITH QUIET RESERVE.

BUT AFTER THE RAFTERS, AFTER THE GLITTER AND LIMELIGHT, THE DARK BEAUTY BECAME A PILLAR OF ICEY CONTEMPT, BRINGING THE CHILL OF THE GRAYNE TO THE CHADWICK MANSION AND TO THE OWNER'S BEDROOM...



PLAY YOUR LITTLE GAME, TRENA...YOU'LL COME BEGGING TO ME SOON ENOUGH...

THE MONTHS WORE ON, AND THE SMILE OF VICTORY NEVER LET CHAD'S GRADUALLY STRAINED FEATURES. NOW AND THEN I'D OVERHEAR HIM SHOUTING AT HER.



IGNORANT LITTLE BITCH! LIKE ME TO FORCE MYSELF ON YOU, WOULDN'T YOU?

LIKE ME TO RAPE YOU SO YOU WON'T LOSE YOUR PRECIOUS PRIDE! WELL, I CAN WAIT...

THE MORROW DISCOVERED TRENA. ONE AFTERNOON I FOUND CHAD STUDYING HER PICTURE ON THE COVER OF VOGUE. HE WAS AS DREAMY AS I'D EVER SEEN HIM.



PLAY YOUR GAME, BITCH...I CAN WAIT...I CAN WAIT...

AS IRENA GROW MORE LOVELY, MORE SENSITIVE... CHAD BECAME MORE ANGRAND, DRUNKER. YET HE WOULD NOT TAKE HER - SHE'VE HAD WILL, WOULD NOT TAME HER BY FORCE, SO HE BEGAN VIKING OUT HIS FRUSTRATIONS ON OTHERS...



I SAID GET ME A DRINK, DAMN YOU!



THAT DOES IT, CHAD. I'M THROUGH! I'VE HAD IT!

I'M LEAVING YOU BOTH TO MALLOW IN YOUR OWN MISERY! I HOPE YOU'LL BE HAPPY IN IT.

I WENT TO EUROPE. CHAD NEVER WROTE ONCE BUT OCCASIONALLY I'D HEAR FROM OTHER FRIENDS ABOUT HOW THE WARRIOR BECAME ONLY MORE MISERABLE... HOW CHAD WAS CONSTANTLY DRUNK AND ON THE VERGE OF LOSING HIS FATHER'S BUSINESS.



I DON'T LEARN UNTIL MUCH LATER WHAT HAPPENED SEVERAL MONTHS AFTER I'D BEEN GONE.

CHAD CAME HOME LATE ONE NIGHT, MORE DRUNK AND IRRITABLE THAN USUAL.

SHE HAD BEEN TAKING A BATH AND WAS JUST CLIMBING FROM THE TUB WHEN HE SMASHED DOWN THE BATHROOM DOOR.



THIS TIME, WHEN SHE TURNED AN ICY SHOULDER TO HIM, HE WAS JUST TOO DRUNK TO REPRESS HIS HATRED...



DON'T PULL THAT WITH ME!

...WHAT HE HADN'T COUNTED ON WAS THE JUNGLE SAWHOGGY THAT SHE HAD BEEN REPRESSING!



IT WAS A FIGHT TO EQUAL THE MOST VIOLENT OF DOMESTIC CONFLICTS...



...SHE FOUGHT HIM LIKE A DEMON, RIPPING, CLAWING AT HIM...



...BUT CHAD WAS A POWERFUL MAN AND THE STRUGGLE HAD UNLEASHED AT LAST ALL HIS PENT-UP DESIRES AND FRUSTRATIONS...



WITH THE COLD, UNWIELDING FORCE OF A HAMMER AGAINST HER HEAD AND THE SATIN RIBBON TEARING HER THROAT, CHAD TOOK HER...HER SCREAMING CURSE ECHOING AROUND THE GLEISTING TILES...

WHOW! WHANN! GUNNICK...NHOR... NHOR!!



UNNN! NO! UNNN! NO! NO!

IT TOOK ONLY A FEW MINUTES...



...BUT IT CHANGED THEIR LIVES FOREVER.





ROBERT HARRIS WOULD HAVE TOLD YOU SO IN 1894. ERNEST HEMINGWAY KNEW IT IN 1934, EVEN AS EARLY AS 1924 TEDDY ROOSEVELT COULD HAVE PREDICTED IT. AFRICA IS DYING. FOR SOME, IT IS ALREADY DEAD.

THE LUSH SAVANNAS THAT STRETCHED ENDLESSLY BELOW THE GLORY OF MT. KILIMANTJARO--FRESH AND WITH UPRAIL, TOPS AND WATERBUCK--ARE REDUCED NOW, TO SCORCHED AND BARREN DUST DUNES, THANKS TO THE THIEFISH HERDS OF KIBUJI CATTLE RAIDERS ALL THAT IS LEFT BEFORE THEM ON THEIR CONSTANT SEARCH FOR FOOD.

EVEN THE FEW GAME RESERVES THAT REMAIN, LIKE THE APOCALYPTIC RESERVE ARE UNDER ARMY THREAT FROM FRUSTRATED HERDSMEN LOOKING FOR FRESH GRASSLAND TO FEED THEIR STOCK.

IT WAS NOT ALWAYS SO. BEFORE WORLD WAR I--BEFORE THE ADVENT OF THE KENYA-UGANDA RAILROAD, BEFORE THE TONGA SLAUGHTER OF WILDLIFE BY BRITISH AND GERMAN TROOPS--NAGELAND WAS A NATURALIST'S DREAM, A RICH STOREHOUSE OF VEGETATION, WHERE THE ROLLING THUNDER OF A MILLION ANIMALS SHOOK THE EARTH, AND THE AIR WAS SWEET AND HEAVY WITH A WILD...



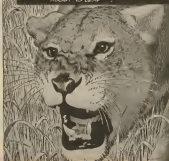
YELLOW HEAT

WITH GRIPPED THE FRAGILE WISPLANCE AND TOOK A ZEROSOME GRIEP BACKWARD IN THE THICK SAVANNA GRASS, PRAYING TO HIS GODS THAT THE CROUCHING, ASH-EYED FELINE WOULD NOT SPRING.

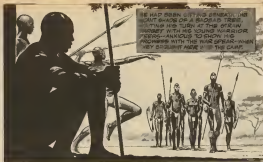
HEAT-UP BEBATH SAWDROPPED BETWEEN HIS TEETH, A MUSCLE TITCHED NERVOUSLY ON THE LIONESS' TAWNY BACK, THE DALEFUL EYES FROD ALMOST MERRICALLY ON HIM.

A LOW ZAMULF BEGAN IN THE BIG CAT'S THROAT, LUMPY FRODZ, A FRESH NAME OF SALTLY FRODATION WASHED HIS FORE-HEAD AND BACK.

THE STEEL MUSCLED LONGS TENSED BENEATH THE SLEEK YELLOWCOAT, THE BEAST WAS ABOUT TO LEAP--!



"I AM A FOOL...!" IT WAS ALL HE COULD THINK. "I HAVE OFFENDED MY CHIEF, SHAMED MY FAMILY AND BROUGHT ABOUT MY OWN DEATH. I AM DESERVED OF THIS...!" BUT THAT DID NOT STOP THE FRANTIC REGARDS WHEN HIS DELICIOUS MEAT WAS TAKEN IN A DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE THE HORROR OF THE PRESENT...!



HE HAD BEEN SITTING BENEATH THE SHADY SHADE OF A BAOBAB TREE, WAITING HIS TURN AT THE GRAY WAGTAIL WITH HIS YOUNG WARRIOR PEERS--ANXIOUS TO SHOW HIS PROGRESS WITH THE BAR SPEAR--WHEN THEY BROUGHT HOME THE CAMP.



SHE BLANDED BRIMPLY AT HIM AS THE INDICES JERKED HER ROUND HANDS ROUGHLY TOWARD THE VILLAGE AND UTHU FELT HIS HEART LEAP IN ALL HIS EIGHTEEN YEARS HE HAD NEVER SEEN ANYTHING TO EQUAL HER...



SOMEONE PUNCHED HIS ARM, AND HE TURNED ABUSUALLY TO THE GRAY TARGET. THE SPEAR LEFT HIS HAND OF ITS OWN ACCORD, FALLING WIDE OF HIS MARK. THE OTHERS L'ISHED HARSHLY. UTHU DIDN'T HAVAR. HIS EYES WERE FIXED ONCE MORE ON THE DEPARTING FORM OF THE NATIVE GIRL.

THAT EVENING, UTHU SAT TRANSFIXED BEFORE THE CEREMONIAL FIRE, HIS MIND A MATEX OF CONFUSION AND LONGING. HE DESPERATELY WANTED WHAT WAS NOT HIS TO POSSESS. FOR AT THE THORAX, THE VIEW OF THE TRIBE AND LITTLE SAY ABOUT THEIR CHOICE OF WOMAN. PARTICULARLY THE CAPTURED BEAUTY OF AN ENEMY TRIBE.

STILL, THERE WAS MORE. IF BY SOME BREAK DIVINE, ONE OF THE OLDER WARRIORS PICKED HER, UTHU WOULD THEN BE WITHIN HIS RIGHTS TO REQUEST PERMISSION FROM THE CHIEF TO BUY THE YOUNG GIRL. IF NO ONE DETECTED PERMISSION WOULD PROBABLY BE GRANTED...





NO WONDER THE OTHERS HADN'T BARE CHOICES WERE!... THE CHIEF HAD LET IT BE KNOWN HE WANTED HER FOR HIS OWN. UTHU SMILED, Gazing WITH HATE-FILLED EYES AT HIS SLEAZED LEADER. IT WASN'T FAIR! THE CHIEF HAD SIX WIVES, TWENTY GOATS! THE LARGEST HUT! DO HE NEED MORE?



A FLASH OF REDDISH-GOLDEN! IN THE CORNER! LEVISED EYES! UTHU'S CONVICTIONS SHIPPED IT HIM IN JOURNALS! THEN, THE FAT FIVE-HORNED WOODS, RELAXED HIS NOSE AND A KISS, THERING A LUSH LOGS FROM THE DICE.



HE WAS ABOUT TO SPING TO HIS FEET WHEN A MURMUR WENT UP FROM THE CROWD. UTHU FREEZE AS THE GRINDING CHIEFTAIN WHISPERED FROM HIS THROAT AND NODDED TOWARD THE SCULPTURE GIRL.

"DOES ANY MAN CHALLENGE ME?" ASKED THE CHIEF JOVIALY, THE TRIBE LAUGHED AT HIS LITTLE JOKE. ALL GAVE ONE.



UTHU LEFT TO HIS FEET, UNABLE TO RESIST IN HIMSELF. "I DO!" THE CHIEF WHISPERED. THE GIRL GASPED. A ALONG FELL OVER THE CROWD AND UTHU PUT HIS KNEES KNOCK!

"OK, UTHU SMOOTHER A MAN!" THE CHIEF ANNOUNCED. "AND A MAN SHALL HAVE WHAT HE DEMANDS!... IF HE CAN RISE THE TENT OF A WARRIOR!" THE CROWD CHIEFTAIN! SOY FEAR, CLUTCHED AT HIS HEART AS THE CHIEFTAIN HANDLED A SLIM SPINE TO THE BOY...



"THE BEST OF A KILLING"
IT HAD BEEN SHOWN BY
THE COUNCIL TEN YEARS AGO
AS A WARNING OF THE EVIL
DEATH THAT AILS POPULATION
IN THE TROPES. LESS THAN HALF
OF THOSE WHO ATTEMPTED IT
RETURNED TO THE VILLAGE
ALIVE. ONCE ACCOMPLISHED
NO WARRIOR HONOR WAS
BESTOWED ON THE VICTOR.
BUT THE LOSS WAS A
TERRIBLE PRICE.



THE TASK WAS SIMPLE
IN OUTLINE: TO BRING
BACK WITHIN THE SPACE
OF THREE DAYS--A
FULL-GROWN ANOM--
TO KILL IT UNASSAILED BY
ANOTHER WARRIOR.
WITH ONLY THE FRAGILE
SPEAR AND SHIELD--
ANCE--TO ACCOMPLISH
IN OTHER WORDS,
THE NEAR IMPOSSIBLE.

ONCE AS A CHILD, HE HAS SEEN
WHAT CAN HAPPEN WHEN A HUNGRY
LION ATTACKS. HE WAS RETURNING
FROM THE KILLING WATER HOLE
WITH HIS MOTHER AND OLDER
BROTHER. THE BIG CAT HAD LUNGED
IN A MURDER BEFORE THEY WERE
TIME. THEY WERE WALKING ALONE--



TO THE OLD MAN
OLD UTHU, IT
WAS AS IF A
MOUNTAIN HAD
SUDDENLY
REARDED UP
BEFORE THEM
SLOTTING OUT
THE VERY SUN.
HE HEARD HIS
BROTHER'S FEARING
SCREAM AND FELT
KINGED. HE HAD
TURNED INSTANTLY
OUT OF THE WAY.
THEN, HIS BROTHER'S
BARE BODY LEAPED
ACROSS HIM--



THE SOUND OF TEETH IN FLESH, AND CRUNCHING BONE
WOULD FOREVER KING IN HIS BARS AS HIS VALIANT
BROTHER WENT DOWN LIKE A DRY THING UNDER THE
POWER ONSLAUGHT...



THEN STRONG HANDS SWITCHED
HIM UP AS HIS MYSTERICAL
ROTTER FLUNG DESPERATELY
THROUGH THE BUSH. UTHU
HAD LOOKED BACK TO SEE
THE GIANT BEAST CARRYING
OFF ITS STILL SCREAMING
PRIZE...



UTHU SPENT THE
ENTIRE MORNING
SELECTING THE
STRAIGHTEST AND
STURDIEST BRANCHES
HE COULD FIND--
THOSE HE CUT INTO
SPEARHEAD LENGTHS
AND SHARPENED TO
NEEDLE POINTS ON
BOTH ENDS. THE BEAR
HEAD HAD NEARLY DUL
BY THE TIME HE'D
FINISHED BUT THAT
MATTERED LITTLE
NOW... HE HAD A PLAN.



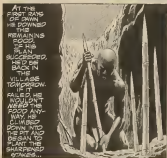
HE THEN STRUCK OFF UNDER THE BLAZING AFRICAN SUN IN SEARCH OF A WELL-TRAVELED GAME TRAIL. WHEN HE HAD COLLECTED A SPOT HE FELT SUITED TO HIS PLAN HE BEGAN TO AS...



HE DID UNTIL NIGHT-FALL--A SHEER FACED PIT SIX FEET DEEP FOUR FEET WIDE--THEN FRANK FROM A NEAR BY STREAM DECIDED HALF HIS RATION OF ZEBRA MEAT AND CLIMBED A TALL TREE, BINDING HIMSELF WITH VINES TO A THICK LIMB. LUTUS FELL INSTANTLY ASLEEP.



AT THE FIRST RAYS OF DAWN HE DOWNED THE REMAINS FOOD OF HIS PLAN SUCCEEDED, HE'D BE BACK IN THE VILLAGE TOMORROW. IF IT FAILED, HE WOULDN'T NEED THE FOOD ANYWAY. HE CLIMBED DOWN INTO THE PIT AND BEGAN TO PLANT THE SHARPENED STAKES...



HULLING HIMSELF OUT, HE BEGAN TEARING OFF TREE BRANCHES HEAVILY LEADED WITH FOLIAGE. IT TOOK HEAVY ARMFULS TO COMPLETELY COVER THE PIT. IN AN HOUR HE STOOD BESIDE THE TRAP AND APPRAISED HIS WORK.



THEN, HE PICKED UP THE SPEAR AND MOVED OFF TOWARD A WATERHOLE IN SEARCH OF A BABY WILDLIFE OR GAZ. HE COULD NOT EXPECT A LION TO SIMPLY FALL INTO THE PIT. HE WOULD HAVE TO LURE IT WITH SOMETHING.



LUTUS STOMACH GROWLED. HE WAS HUNGRY. HE HAD BEEN SITTING MANKLE IN THE TALL GRASS FOR THREE HOURS. THE SPEAR HELD IN READINESS BEFORE HIM. IN ALL THAT TIME, HE HAD SEEN TWO GUINEA HENS AND A SMALL PORCUPINE... NOTHING A FULL GROWN LION WOULD BOTHER WITH. HIS LEGS ACHED. HE WAS THIRSTY. HE WANTED TO BE HOME ON HIS BED.



HE THOUGHT OF THE BEAUTIFUL YOUNG NATIVE GIRL... AND HIS HEART DID STRANGE THINGS. HE SAW HER DARK, SMOOTH THINGS, SUPPLE WAIST, HIGH ROULD BREASTS AND FULL MOUTH AND FOR A MOMENT ALL THE MENTAL ANNOYANCE OF THE DRY DISAPPEARED. IF IT COULD ONLY BE!... IF HE COULD REALLY HAVE HER! HIS FRIENDS WOULD BE MAD WITH ENVY... HIS PARENTS PRIDE... HIS PRIDE...



A MOVEMENT IN THE TALL GRASS AHEAD OF HIM DROVE HIS REVERIE. SOMETHING OF SIZEABLE PROPORTIONS WAS MOVING CAUTIOUSLY THIS WAY. UTHU HELD HIS BREATH, EYES SEARCHING SWARMY IN THE DARKNESS. A TINY SHADOW IN FRONT OF HIM... AND THEN HE SAW THE HIGH, TROUD HEAD OF AN ANIMAL.



HIS FINGERS TIGHTENED ABOUT THE SPEAR SHIRT IN EXPECTATION. THERE WAS A SUDDEN FLURRY OF SOUND BEFORE HIM. THE LITTLE ANIMAL SHOT FORWARD BOLWING OVER HIS HEAD.



UTHU STOOD UP QUICKLY HIS HEART STOPPED.

"I AM A FOOL," HE THOUGHT. "BECAUSE OF MY STUPIDITY AND GIBBER I HAVE BROUGHT DEATH UPON MYSELF." HE HELD THE SPEAR BEFORE HIM, UNCONSCIOUSLY BACKING AWAY. SLOWLY IN DREAD, NOW TOTALLY FUTILE NOW SEEMED THE RAISE FOR THE TEST OF A WARRIOR... NOW GROSSLY UNLAME THE YELLOW EYES OF THE LIONESS FLASHED RED IN THE MOON LIGHT. THE BUSH OPENED. THE SCOT TENSED...



...AND LEAPT!

AT THE ANGLE HE COULD HAVE TO CLEAR HIS THROAT BEFORE IT BROUGHT HIM DOWN... LUTHU SCREAMED IN TERROR, HIS MIND EXPLODING WITH FEAR AS FELL WEAPONS...



... AND HIS SHOULDER, WHIPPED THE SPEAR IN FRONT OF HIM, WAITED FOR THE IMPACT--FOR DEATH.



A SWIRLING THUNDERING NOISE ERUPTED FROM THE GRASS. LUTHU SPRANG TO HIS FEET, BLAZED INTO THE DARKNESS. THE LIONESS BEGAN TO HAVE SOME SUD-ONLY BEHAVIOR, DANCING AND LEAPING CRAZILY IN CON-FOUNDED FURY. UNDER THE FULL MOON... THEN HE WAS IN THE TWINK OF AN EYE TO PLING.



LUTHU WATCHED IN RAVINATION AS THE TREMENDOUS REPTILE PATENTLY LET THE FELINE ROLL AND CLAN FEVERISHLY AT THE NIGHT AIR. THEN UPON EACH OF THE CAT'S EXHALATIONS, SYSTEMATICALLY CRUSHED THE CAT'S RIBS TOGETHER, SLOWLY SUFFOCATING IT.



IT WAS OVER IN A MATTER OF MINUTES. LUTHU COULD HARDLY BELIEVE HIS GOOD FORTUNE. HE STRODE FORWARD AND CHOPPED OFF THE HEAD OF THE SNAKE...



THEN, HE GRABBED THE LIONESS BY THE TAIL, AND BEGAN THE LABORIOUS TASK OF HAULING ITS TWO-HUNDRED POUND-CAR- CASS BACK TO THE VILLAGE...



HE WAS BUT TWO HUNDRED YARDS FROM THE VILLAGE BEFORE HIS ANXIOUS COMPANIONS SURROUNDED HIM WITH SHOUTS OF JOY AND PRAISE. THE HEAVY BURDEN GRASP AND UTHU WAS HEFTED TO HIS FRIENDS' SHOULDERS...



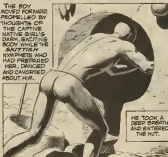
THE KIT CHIEFTAIN NODDED FROM HIS THRONE WITH A GRAMER IF ENVOYED GRIN ON HIS ROUND FACE. THE BOY'S MOTHER RUSHED FROM THE CROWD AND THREW HER ARMS ABOUT HER SON...



THERE WAS A MERRIS GIGGLING TO HIS LEFT. UTHU TURNED TO FIND A BEVY OF TEENAGE GIRLS MOTIONING ENTHUSIASTICALLY TOWARD THE OPEN DOOR OF A SPECIALLY CONSTRUCTED HUT. UTHU SMILED, THE CHIEF SLAPPED HIM ON THE BACK AND LAUGHED.



THE BOY MOVED FORWARD, PROPELLED BY THOUGHTS OF THE CAPTIVE NATIVE GIRL'S DARK, BRITING BODY WHILE THE SKITTISH NOMPHERS WHO HAD PREPARED HER, DANCED AND CAVOURED ABOUT HIM.



HE TOOK A DEEP BREATH AND ENTERED THE HUT.



SHE LAY BEFORE HIM IN THE SHADOWED CONFINES OF THE HUT AND UTHU FELT HIS HEAD WHIRL. HIS EYES TRAVELED OVER HER NAKED SKIN IN AN ECSTASY OF HUNGER, EVERY INCH OF HER SO INVITING HE DIDN'T KNOW WHERE TO START...

HE DECIDED TO START WITH THE THIGH... IT HAD ALWAYS BEEN HIS FAVORITE PART.



UTHU REACHED OUT, BRINKING FOR THE TENDER FLESH...

HARRY

JEFF JONES

ROSES ARE RED
VIOLETS ARE BLUE



PAWN ON THIS PARTICULAR DAY
FOUND A SURPRISE AMONG THE
LEAVES.



THE MORNING WAS ALIVE WITH BOUNDARY
AND HUNGRY WITH CHANGE





AAAWWWKK!







I' M AFRAID,
HARRY. I WAS
NEVER AFRAID
LIKE THIS BEFORE
EVEN DURING THE
FIRE. THEY JUST
DIDN'T UNDERSTAND
YOU, HARRY.



THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE
THROWN YOU IN THE
GARBAGE CAN AND GOT
YOUR HEAD STINNED.



IT'S GOING
TO BE
GETTING DARK
OUT THERE SOON.
HARRY, I DON'T
WANT TO SLEEP
IN THE WOODS
AGAIN.



MAYBE IF WE GO
BACK AND TELL THE
TRUTH — ABOUT THE
GARBAGE CAN, HARRY
MAYBE THEY WON'T
PUT YOU IN JAIL —
THEN.







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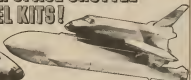
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